UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26320
17 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and above-mentioned statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

93-45516 (E) 180893 180893

180893

/...

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement dated 17 August 1993 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

On 11 August this year, a certain R. Baburian, referring to himself as the acting chairman of the Supreme Council of the so-called "Nagorny Karabakh Republic", addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in which he said that Azerbaijan had violated the bilateral "cease-fire and embarked on a large-scale offensive along ... the entire front". This letter was circulated by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic considers it necessary again to lodge a strong protest against the unacceptable practice on the part of the Republic of Armenia of distributing statements from the non-existent "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" through its overseas representatives. In light of this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan is urging the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to adopt measures to stop the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations from engaging in such activity, which taints the authority of the Organization and is unscrupulously aimed at misinforming the international community about the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Since this is yet another attempt by Armenia to distort the true situation in the area, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic considers it imperative to point out the following:

It is not the first time that the leadership in Armenia and the leaders of the Armenian separatists in Nagorny Karabakh are appealing to world public opinion in an attempt to conduct a preventive "propaganda strike" so as to conceal an Armenian attack actually being prepared, which is subsequently "justified" by false arguments about the need to neutralize "enemy firing points" and "to repulse Azerbaijani attacks", and so on.

There is nothing new about this simplistic approach, but unfortunately it is still not being properly interpreted by the United Nations. Yet again, the self-appointed leaders of the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh, having prepared a propaganda cover in advance, on 11 August, then used it for an actual massive attack, beginning in the period from 13 to 15 August in the Agdam, Fizuli and Djebrail districts of Azerbaijan and resulting in the occupation of 21 settlements and the displacement of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians.

The mechanisms and tactics used by the Republic of Armenia were also tested some time ago in other conflicts. In fact, this is a case of one State using a minion, in the form of its own people who are residents of another neighbouring State, to realize its territorial claims on that neighbouring State.

Armenia initiated its hostile actions against Azerbaijan, directed at undermining the State structure and partitioning its territory, in 1988 by

implanting nationalistic elements in Azerbaijani territory and inciting anti-Azerbaijani and anti-government attitudes among Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin, by organizing the activities of the anti-Azerbaijani committee "Karabakh", whose leader is the current President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian, by establishing and sponsoring a separatist movement among the Armenian population in the highland part of the Karabakh area of Azerbaijan, by provoking ethnic conflicts between the Armenian and Azerbaijani populations of the area, by forming and supplying terrorist groups within the Azerbaijani Republic and by launching a campaign of mass terror and deportation of the Azerbaijani population from Armenia and from Nagorny Karabakh.

Moreover, in these circumstances, Armenia saw fit to adopt on 1 December 1989 a series of unilateral actions involving the annexation of Nagorny Karabakh to Armenia, the incorporation of Nagorny Karabakh into Armenia's budget and the election of deputies from Nagorny Karabakh to Armenia's Parliament.

After Lachin was seized by Armenian units, the illegal deliveries of arms and logistical supplies to the Azerbaijani Republic from Armenia became large-scale and systematic. Having established a powerful military base, the Armenian aggressor began to implement its long since devised plans of territorial expansion deep into Azerbaijan. At present, more than 17 per cent of Azerbaijani territory has been seized, approximately one million Azerbaijanis have been made homeless and thousands have been killed and wounded.

Today, while denying responsibility for the aggression against Azerbaijan, Armenia is thrusting a new player onto centre stage - the so-called "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" - and, acting from a position of force, is demanding that Azerbaijan conduct direct negotiations with it, thereby attempting to legitimize its territorial conquests. Viewing the Republic of Armenia as the principal party in this conflict, Azerbaijan strongly objects to such actions and calls on the international community to put an end to this tragedy, which is leading the people of the area to the brink of disaster.

---